

REMARKS

INTRODUCTION

In accordance with the foregoing, claim 1 has been amended. Claims 3, 4, 8-10, 14, 15 and 20-22 have been cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 11-13 and 16-19 are pending and under consideration.

CLAIM REJECTIONS – 112

Claims 1, 4, 5, 8 and 10 were rejected under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite.

Claim 1 has been amended to appropriately define a main title as the title having the longest playback time among the titles recorded on the disc.

Claim 4 has been cancelled.

Regarding claim 5, it is respectfully submitted that reciting that the disc is a DVD does restrict the scope of the claim because the positive recitation of a DVD in claim 5 limits the method to use with a specific type of disc.

Claims 8 and 10 have cancelled.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

CLAIM REJECTIONS –103

Claims 1, 4, 7, 16, 17 and 20 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee (KR 1996-0002152) (hereinafter "Lee") in view of d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc (US 5,228,014) (hereinafter "d'Arc"), and further in view of Harvey et al. (US 5,109,414) (hereinafter "Harvey").

Claims 2, 5, 18 and 21 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Official Notice.

Claim 6 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 1, and further in view of Hoffberg et al. (US 5,903,454) (hereinafter "Hoffberg").

Claims 9, 19 and 22 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claim 1, and further in view of themselves.

Claim 8 was rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Lee in view of d'Arc, and further in view of Murase (US 5,907,658).

Claims 11 and 14 were rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over the art as applied to claims 1 and 8, and further in view of recording techniques.

Lee discusses a disk reservation/repeated reproduction method of a compact disk player and a device thereof. Lee includes the steps of stopping the driving of the CD and isolating the power of the CDP driver and amplifier to complete the reproducing operation and if the repeated reproduction mode is set at the first step, repeatedly reproducing the reproduced song until the off reservation time is detected. Lee, English Abstract.

D'Arc discusses a process and apparatus for automatically memorizing references of recordings carried on a recording medium. The process is active in play mode in a device provided with means for recognizing a medium and automatically carries out the following steps for each recording carried on said medium: monitoring the continuity of reproduction, automatically memorizing the reference of said recording if it is played in its entirety or if a predetermined proportion of it is played. D'Arc, Abstract.

D'Arc further discusses a standard disc player 10 having an aperture 12 for loading a disc to enable it to be played or to be removed after playing, a display device 14 providing the user with various information such as: playing time of the disc, number of the recording being played, function being carried out, etc., an ON-OFF button 16 together with a plurality of standard controls 18, 20, 22, 24, 26, 28, 30 enabling the user to switch the apparatus to the desired operating mode, including in particular: loading/ejection of the disc, play, pause, fast forward/rewind, replay, locate beginning or end of track, fast playback, etc. D'Arc, 2:54-2:65 and Figure 1.

Harvey discusses a signal processing apparatus and methods. In Harvey, the system encompasses the prior art (television, radio, broadcast hardcopy, computer communications, etc.) and new user specific mass media. Within the unified system, parallel processing computer systems, each having an input (e.g., 77) controlling a plurality of computers (e.g., 205), generate and output user information at receiver stations. Under broadcast control, local computers (73, 205), combine user information selectively into prior art communications to exhibit personalized mass media programming at video monitors (202), speakers (263), printers (221), etc. At intermediate transmission stations (e.g., cable television stations), signals in network broadcasts and from local inputs (74, 77, 97, 98) control processors (71) and computers (73) to selectively automate connection and operation of receivers (53), recorder/players (76), computers (73), generators (82), strippers (81), etc. At receiver stations, signals in received transmissions and from local inputs (225, 203, 22) control processors (200) and computers (205) to automate

connection and operation of converters (201), tuners (215), decryptors (224), recorder/players (217), computers (205), furnaces (206), etc. Pressures (71, 200) meter and monitor availability and usage of programming. Harvey, Abstract.

Hoffberg discusses a human-factored interface corporating adaptive pattern recognition based controller apparatus. Hoffberg provides an enhanced interface for facilitating human input of a desired control sequence in a programmable device by employing specialized visual feedback. Hoffberg also relates to a new interface and method of interfacing with a programmable device, which is usable as an interface for a programmable video cassette recorder. Hoffberg, Abstract.

Murase discusses a Multimedia optical disk, reproduction apparatus and method for achieving variable scene development based on interactive control. In Murase, the command "Link" instructs the disk reproduction apparatus to branch to a program chain having a PGC number specified as an operand in the command. If executed, the command "Link" instructs the disk reproduction apparatus to stop reproducing VOBs by the current PGC information and start reproducing VOBs by the PGC information specified in the command "Link." The command "Link" is mainly written as the highlight command and is used to instruct the disk reproduction apparatus to branch to the reproduction corresponding to the menu item selected and determined by the user. Murase, 21:11-21:22 and Figure 14.

Claims 1-7 and 11-13

Independent claims 1 and 11 recite: "...upon determining that playback of the main title is terminated, ejecting the disc by driving an unloading device." Support for the amendment to claim 1 may be found in at least original claim 3. In contrast to claims 1 and 11, as stated in the Office Action, Lee does not discuss ejecting the disc upon a determination that playback of the main title is terminated. The Examiner relies on d'Arc to cure this deficiency in Lee. However, all d'Arc discusses is a manual eject button 18 that is not automatic. The Examiner notes that whether the ejection is automatic or manual is not of patentable moment. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As held in Systemation, Inc. v. Engel Indus., Inc., Civ. App. No. 98-1489 (Fed. Cir. Mar. 10, 1999) (unpublished), a public use of a manual method does not anticipate an automatic method when the methods do not involve identical steps. Claims 1 and 11 recite upon determining that playback of the main title is terminated, ejecting the disc by driving an unloading device. Neither d'Arc nor Lee discuss this step. D'Arc contains ejection capability, but makes no mention of ejecting a disk automatically at the conclusion of the main title.

In many circumstances a user of a disc player may not be facing a display device or other apparatus used to show the contents of a disc. One example would include a DVD viewing store, where a method of informing an employee whether a title being viewed has terminated is required in order to facilitate the circulation of customers. For example, in a DVD viewing store, DVD players are mounted at the front counter, and a title played back on a DVD player can be viewed in a room assigned to the respective DVD player that is mounted at the front counter. However, current methods do not inform an employee operating the players at the counter whether the title being viewed has terminated. Thus, even though the playback of the title being viewed has terminated, the termination cannot be recognized at the counter. The method including automatic ejection recited in claims 1 and 11 solve this problem.

Harvey, which was also relied on in the rejection of claims 1 and 11, does not discuss ejection – manual or automatic – anywhere at all, so it also does supply the automatic ejection feature recited in claims 1 and 11. Further, Murase, which was additionally relied on in the rejection of claim 11, does not discuss ejection – manual or automatic – anywhere at all, so it also does supply the automatic ejection feature recited in claim 11.

Claims 3 and 4 have been cancelled. Claims 2, 5-7, 12 and 13 depend on claims 1 and 11, respectively, and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 8-10

Claims 8-10 have been cancelled.

Claims 14 and 15

Claims 14 and 15 have been cancelled.

Claims 16-19

Independent claim 16 recites: "...a driver driving the unloading device ejecting the disc if the playback has terminated." In contrast to claim 16, as stated in the Office Action, Lee does not discuss ejecting the disc if playback is terminated. The Examiner relies on d'Arc to cure this deficiency in Lee. However, all D'Arc discusses is a manual eject button 18 that is not automatic. The Examiner notes that whether the ejection is automatic or manual is not of patentable moment. The Applicant respectfully disagrees. As held in Systemation, Inc. v. Engel Indus., Inc., Civ. App. No. 98-1489 (Fed. Cir. Mar. 10, 1999) (unpublished), a public use of a manual method does not anticipate an automatic method when the methods do not involve

identical steps. Claim 16 recite if playback is terminated, ejecting the disc by driving an unloading device. Neither d'Arc nor Lee discuss this step. D'Arc contains ejection capability, but makes no mention of ejecting a disk automatically at the conclusion of playback.

In many circumstances a user of a disc player may not be facing a display device or other apparatus used to show the contents of a disc. One example would include a DVD viewing store, where an apparatus to inform an employee whether a title being viewed has terminated is required in order to facilitate the circulation of customers. For example, in a DVD viewing store, DVD players are mounted at the front counter, and a title played back on a DVD player can be viewed in a room assigned to the respective DVD player that is mounted at the front counter. However, current devices do not inform an employee operating the players at the counter whether the title being viewed has terminated. Thus, even though the playback of the title being viewed has terminated, the termination cannot be recognized at the counter. The apparatus including automatic unloading recited in claim 16 solves this problem.

Harvey, which was also relied on in the rejection of claim 16, does not discuss ejection – manual or automatic – anywhere at all, so it also does not supply the automatic unloading feature recited in claim 16.

Claims 17-19 depend on claim 16 and are therefore believed to be allowable for at least the foregoing reasons.

Withdrawal of the foregoing rejection is requested.

Claims 20-22

Claims 20-22 have been cancelled.

CONCLUSION

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is courteously solicited.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

STAAS & HALSEY LLP

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By: Gregory W. Harper
Gregory W. Harper
Registration No. 55,248

1201 New York Avenue, NW, 7th Floor
Washington, D.C. 20005
Telephone: (202) 434-1500
Facsimile: (202) 434-1501